

THE FOOTBALL TRYOUT

Jason was worried as he walked [panda/ snowy/ toward] school that August morning. Today was [ate/ red/ the] first day of football practice and [he/ is/ cut] was going to make the team [braid/ this/ fair] year no matter what. He had [trees/ home/ tried] twice before, but each time something [had/ nose/ fit] prevented him from being picked for [wing/ the/ get] team. He just couldn't understand why [cut/ the/ by] coach always took such a rigid [position/ strike/ firings]. After all, it wasn't entirely Jason's [make/ votes/ fault] that he had run the wrong [way/ hole/ tote] and made a touchdown for the [other/ slips/ will] side the first year he had [city/ tried/ feast] out. That could happen to anyone. [And/ Big/ Camp] he certainly had not thought he [girl/ fail/ was] out of order last year when [is/ he/ up] was trying to be helpful and had [canter/ pumped/ within] up the balls. How was he [to/ up/ eye] know that footballs didn't take the same [jungle/ golden/ amount] of air as his bicycle tires? [Dog/ Wish/ The] coach had turned such an awful [days/ shade/ trip] of red when all the balls [skate/ burst/ bike] when the guys threw them that Jason [new/ gift/ was] worried that he might become sick. [She/ And/ Day] then when he had offered to [help/ from/ lake] the coach--well, he had just started spluttering [so/ eat/ and] waving his arms around so [lose/ that/ mall] his assistants had suggested that Jason [leave/ cost/ happy] the field. As soon as possible.

[Well/ Tree/ Home], thought Jason, none of those things [bid/ west/ can] happen this year. Nothing was going [to/ pin/ hat] keep him from making the team. [After/ Movie/ Where] all, hadn't he spent most of [tin/ the/ and] summer watching tapes of last year's

[run/ pro/ the] games? And hadn't he read Knute Rockne's biography [for/ red/ at] least three times? Jason felt [their/ sure/ wolf] that this was really going to be [his/ and/ rid] year. "Uh, oh," said Coach Bison, "[someone/ pending/ lessons] had better warn Coach Snoodle that HE [up/ is/ of] back again, and make sure that [eye/ but/ the] aspirin is nearby when you tell [him/ dig/ pea]." Actually, Coach Snoodle had spent his [learn/ mouse/ summer] vacation, not viewing football films, [ride/ but/ bye] at a stress seminar, and when [up/ if/ he] heard the news about Jason, he [took/ city/ pear] it all in stride.

Jason walked confidently [mute/ hand/ onto] the field and up to Coach Snoodle. "[Snake/ Nose/ Here] I am, Coach, ready for the [ray/ new/ cent] season," Jason beamed at the coach. [Make/ Fix/ The] coach calmly said, "OK, here's your assignment, [her/ kid/ can]. Run a down-and-out and [dote/ bait/ then] pass off to Lyle." Jason strode [your/ onto/ blue] the field, ran around the blockers, [and/ owl/ pay] passed the ball with all his [from/ might/ boats] down to the twenty-yard line. Unfortunately, [the/ off/ to] throw was wide and the ball went [but/ in/ toe] the direction of Gabby the Goat, [may/ the/ elm] team mascot and Coach Snoodle's personal [the/ and/ pet]. The football hit Gabby smack between [for/ hat/ the] eyes and knocked her flatter [oven/ than/ read] a pancake. Jason decided it was [time/ lift/ camp] to take his leave, because he [stool/ under/ could] tell that Coach Snoodle's stress management had not [hopped/ taken/ before] as well as he had [relief/ houses/ thought] it had. Well, maybe next year [robe/ put/ would] be Jason's.